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Public Involvement

Cleanup

Science & Tech



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, January 2005

You may comment on DTSC proposed cleanup at Loomis Hills Estates

Introduction

From January 13 through February 14, 2005, you may comment to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (known as DTSC) on two documents, a Draft Removal Action Workplan and a Proposed Negative Declaration. These documents propose cleanup plans for contaminated soil at the Loomis Hills Estates site located at 5337 Lone Pine in Loomis.

DTSC is the state government agency overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the Loomis Hills Estates site. Our job is to make sure that the owner does the cleanup in a way that protects human health and the environment. The Draft Removal Action Workplan (also referred to as a Draft RAW) proposes a specific way to clean up the Loomis Hills Estates site. DTSC has also considered how this project may impact the environment. The Proposed Negative Declaration explains why we believe that the proposed cleanup will not have a negative impact on the environment.

The Draft RAW and the Proposed Negative Declaration are available for public review at the Loomis Public Library, 6050 Library Drive, Loomis, CA 95650. The Loomis Library will reopen on January 18, 2004. Please call (916) 652-7061 for their hours of operation.

Site History

From the early 1920s to the 1980s, farmers used the land now called Loomis Hills Estates site for growing fruit in an orchard. During those years, farmers used pesticides (which contained arsenic) to keep insects from ruining fruit trees. Also, they used a transformer to provide electrical power. In the late 1980s, farmers stopped orchard operations and abandoned the orchard and its transformer. By 1999, Sacramento Land Investments Limited Partnership bought the property and tested the soil to see how much and what kind of pesticides were present. They also wanted to know if the transformer had leaked chemicals.

Your Comments Sought on Proposed Cleanup Plans

We are accepting comments on a

**Draft Removal Action Workplan and proposed Negative Declaration from
January 13 through February 14, 2005**

Send comments to:

Duane White, DTSC Project Manager

8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826

E-mail address is DWhite@dtsc.ca.gov

(916) 255-3585



The tests showed that arsenic, lead, the pesticide, DDT, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the transformer are in the soil at levels DTSC considers as unsafe for long term human contact. Other tests showed no chemicals in the groundwater. Before the owners can build homes on the property, DTSC must certify the soil as safe for residential construction.

Proposed Cleanup

DTSC's goal with the proposed cleanup is to eliminate the risk to human health coming from potential exposures to arsenic, lead, DDT, and PCBs in the first two feet of the soil. Before DTSC chooses a final proposed cleanup method, DTSC evaluates several possible options.

The four methods evaluated are:

- 1) Taking no action and leaving the contaminated soil in place as it is now.
- 2) Digging up and consolidating the contaminated soil under a cap and putting a deed restriction on the property. This option restricts future use of the property.
- 3) Treating the contaminated soil in place.
- 4) Digging up the contaminated soil and taking it to an off-site authorized landfill.

The Proposal to Dig Up and Take Away the Contaminated Soil

Of the options considered, digging up and taking away the contaminated soil to an offsite landfill is the most effective, least costly, and easiest way to clean up the Loomis Hills Estates site and make it safe for human health and the environment.

Here is how we propose this cleanup:

- Dig up and remove about 1900 cubic yards of contaminated soil to two feet below the ground surface.
- Use backhoes and loaders to place contaminated soil into a cargo box or a dump truck. This may require temporarily stockpiling the soil on-site until it can be transported to an off-site landfill.
- Spray water during digging operations and cover stockpiles with plastic sheeting to reduce dust.
- Collect soil samples from the dug out areas to make sure that all contaminated soil is gone.
- Backfill dug out areas with clean soil.

Effects of the Proposed Cleanup on the Environment

As part of this project, DTSC must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (known as CEQA). The purpose of CEQA is to see if a proposed project could significantly impact the environment. We have done an analysis and we believe that the Loomis Hills Estates proposed cleanup qualifies for a Negative Declaration under CEQA. The Proposed Negative Declaration states that the cleanup option proposed in the Draft RAW will not have a negative impact on the environment. It is available for review at the Loomis Public Library.

Future Activities

After the end of the public comment period, DTSC will review and respond to the comments received before making a final decision to either approve or amend the Draft RAW. We will respond to comments in a document called a Response to Comments. We will place the Response to Comments in the Loomis Public Library, send it to anyone who submitted a comment and to anyone who requests a copy.

If we approve the Draft RAW, cleanup activities will begin in the spring of 2005. The owner will do the cleanup using the methods and controls in the design portion of the approved RAW.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Loomis Hills Estates, please contact Duane White, Project Manager at (916) 255-3585, e-mail at DWhite@dtsc.ca.gov or Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3650, e-mail at NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov. If from the media, please call Lisa Gray, Public Information Officer, at (916) 324-0936, e-mail at LGray@dtsc.ca.gov.

For the Hearing Impaired: TDD users can obtain more information by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher (916) 255-3650 about Loomis Hills Estates site.